(b) Power, steel and cement are the major coal consuming industries importing coal. The quantities of coal imported by these industries during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 are given in following table:

(Figures in million tones)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
Coking Coal(Steel/Cokeries)	12.94	12.99	10.79
Non-coking coal			7.50**
Power (Utilities)	3.17	1.42	
Cement	3.66	2.50	
Others	3.49	4.77	
Total	23.26	21.68	18.30

*Provisional and from Apr '04 to Dec '04.
**Sector Wise Break Up Not Available.

(c) Since Govt./*Coal India Limited* do not import coal and consumers are free to import coal without any restriction, the fulfilment of demand through imported coal totally depends on the successful import transactions made by the consumers.

Supreme Court's environmental guidelines regarding coal mines

4490. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has recently put a ban on coal mining unless the environmental rules and strictly followed;

(b) if so, the details of these environmental rules and whether these are being followed; and

(c) if not, whether the Coal mining has been stopped in compliance of the Supreme Court's ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO); (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 21.2.2005 in W.P. (Civil) No.460 of 2004 directed closure of defaulting units which operate in violation of environmental laws. 55 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) came under such order.

(b) The relevant environmental rules that regulate the operations of coal mines are broadly covered by following acts and rules:-

The Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules, 1986
The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Rules 1982
The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Rules 1975

The Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 1994 dated 27.1.94 and subsequent amendment makes it mandatory for the industries listed in schedule 1, which includes coal mining having lease hold of more than 5 Ha, to have environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF). This includes the new coal mines and also those which are under expansion and modernization;

For all such projects which are new or under expansion and modernization, the CIL approaches the MOEF for getting Environmental clearance.

CIL & it's subsidiary companies have been approaching MOEF from time to time for environmental clearance after a decision to enhance production capacity of a mine, etc are taken. However, due to delays in processing of environmental clearance proposal at various levels, expansion/modernization in some mines continued in anticipation of obtaining the environmental clearance from MOEF.

(c) No, Sir. The Supreme Court has stayed the order dated 21.2.2005 after an application was filed by CIL on behalf of its subsidiaries for intervention.

Consultation on Coal Sector Reform

4491. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether industry-wise federation of coal mine workers or major central trade unions have been associated with High Power Expert Committee, constituted by Government for comprehensive review of coal sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?